

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 00577 231816Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-12 DODE-00 EB-08 NSAE-00
TRSE-00 SOE-02 DOE-11 CIAE-00 COME-00 PM-05 H-01
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STATE FOR EUR/WE
USIA FOR IEU, IOP/M

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOPN, PINT, PO
SUBJECT: POLITICS AND THE MEDIA -- SOME CHANGES

REF: LISBON 0300

1. CONTRABAND CASE: EDMUNDO PEDRO, THE SOCIALIST PARTY (PS)
LEADER CHARGED WITH CONTRABAND ACTIVITIES IN ARMS AND
ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES, RESIGNED JANUARY 19 FROM ALL PS OFFICES
AND FROM THE PRESIDENCY OF STATE TELEVISION (RTP). NO FORMAL
HEARING HAS AS YET BEEN HELD ON CHARGES AGAINST PEDRO, BUT
THE ARMY HAS STEPPED FORWARD TO EXPLAIN THAT PEDRO WAS AMONG
CERTAIN TRUSTED CIVILIANS WHO RECEIVED MILITARY WEAPONS FOR
POSSIBLE USE ON BEHALF OF THE GOP DURING THE NOVEMBER 25,
1975, LEFT-WING COPY ATTEMPT. MEANWHILE, THE MEDIA
HAVE WIDELY IDENTIFIED PEDRO AS A KNOWN CONTRABAND
OPERATOR--THE TONE OF WHICH REPORTS CAN BUT BE EMBARRASSING
TO THE PS. PEDRO IS STILL IN CUSTODY.

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PAGE 02 LISBON 00577 231816Z

2. REPERCUSSIONS IN THE NORTH: SILVA TAVARES PRESENTED
HIS RESIGNATION AS EDITOR OF THE OPORTO DAILY "COMERCIO DO
PORTO" ON JAN 19. HE TOLD EMBOFF THAT HE WAS LEAVING
FOR PERSONAL REASONS --HE WAS TIRED FROM WORKING DAY
AND NIGHT AND WANTED TO SEE MORE OF HIS FAMILY. SILVA
TAVARES SAID HE WOULD REMAIN WITH THE PAPER, PRESUMABLY

AS POLITICAL COMMENTATOR. SILVA TAVARES' NOV. 19 EDITORIAL STRONGLY QUESTIONED THE VIABILITY OF A PS/CDS GOVERNMENT. FYI: SILVA TAVARES EMERGED AS A FIRM ANTI-COMMUNIST IN 1975. SINCE THEN, HE HAS DIRECTED HIS PAPER TO BECOME WHAT SOME THOUGHT WAS FARTHER TO THE RIGHT THAN ANY OTHER STATE-INTERVENED NEWSPAPER. THE CDS MAY BE ALLOWED TO CHOOSE THE NEXT EDITOR OF "COMERCIO", AS A PART OF ITS NEW GOVERNMENTAL ROLE.

3. SOCIALIST PAPER: THE NEWS DIRECTOR AND HIS WIFE (ALSO AN EDITORIAL STAFF MEMBER) OF PRO-SOCIALIST "A LUTA" RESIGNED NOV 19, REPORTEDLY DUE TO INTERNAL DIFFERENCES IN THE NEWSPAPER.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Concepts: JOURNALISTS, PARTY LEADERS, PERSONNEL RESIGNATIONS
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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